

# National Bibliography Policy

January 11, 2005

## Separate Records for Titles in Multiple Formats

### SETTING THE STAGE

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has used the single bibliographic record approach for titles distributed in multiple formats since the 1970's for microfiche and began applying it to online resources in 1995. GPO practices regarding publications issued in multiple formats are described in *Format determination in GPO cataloging practices* ([http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/cip/cataloging-formats.pdf](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/cip/cataloging-formats.pdf)). For serials, the CONSER single record option is followed. Integrating resources issued in multiple formats are cataloged using a single record. If the print version ceases, a new record is created for the electronic. A single record is also created for monograph publications in multiple formats.

However, GPO's Digital Content System calls for separate metadata representations of each version. Additionally, the continued transition to an electronic Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and the implementation of an Integrated Library System, Ex-Libris's Aleph 500, resulted in a need to re-examine this practice.

As part of the *National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications: Initial Planning Statement*, GPO solicited comments from the Federal Depository Library community and the wider library community on the possibility of creating a unique bibliographic record for each manifestation of a title. In addition, GPO investigated the costs and benefits of the continued use of the single record approach.

### NEW INFORMATION

As a result of comments from the depository community and the review of the single record approach, GPO will begin implementing separate bibliographic records for titles available in multiple formats. With the continued movement towards an electronic FDLP, electronic publications are the primary format for dissemination and cataloging, with over 85% of titles already available online. The single record approach does not provide a full bibliographic description of the electronic version. GPO cataloging policy must reflect the prominence of electronic publications by always providing full bibliographic access.

### EFFECTIVE DATE

This change in policy will coincide with the stand-up, or switch to production, date of Aleph 500, mid April 2005.

### QUESTIONS

- Are there any FRBR-related consequences of using separate records GPO should consider?
- What are the ramifications of this policy change to your library? With searching or displays in your OPAC?
- Should GPO change the cataloging level of records for electronic monographs from K-level to I or full level?

- ♦ What is the preferred practice in situations where only one or two issues of a serial are distributed in microfiche? Should GPO create a separate microfiche record to cover this anomaly?

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